

REMARKS

The applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview conducted on October 23, 2007 in which the prior art of record and the preceding amendment were discussed.

The applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 7, 17, 18, 22, 28 and 33 and added new claims 39, 40, and 41. No new matter is added. Support for the amendment to claims 1, 17 and 28 can be found in the figures, specifically in figures 1, 1A, 2 and 2A. Support for the amendment to claims 2, 18 and 39 can be found in the specification, specifically at paragraph 74, last two sentences. Support for claims 40 and 41 can be found in the specification, specifically in paragraph 74 (second to last sentence), paragraph 83 (third sentence) and in the photograph of figure 9.

Response to Outstanding Final Office Action

The applicant respectfully requests Examiner to withdraw his objection to the drawings. Applicant has amended claims 1, 17 and 28 to clarify that the "rod" can be in only one of two positions." Moreover, as discussed during the telephone interview of October 23, 2007, applicant contends that figures 1, 1A, 2 and 2A show the valve with a rod that "can be in only one of two positions."

The applicant respectfully requests Examiner to withdraw his §102 rejections to claims 1-7, 13, 16-22, 24 and 27. Duffy (US Pat. No. 6,050,973) fails to disclose a device or method where the rod fluid channel is generally straight and/or wherein the rod is readily visible to an operator and/or easily reset. Thus, the cited reference fails to

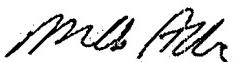
disclose or suggest every feature recited in the claim. Therefore, the Section 102 rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

The applicant respectfully requests Examiner to withdraw his §103 rejections to claims 8-11, 12, 14, 15, 23, 25, 26, and 28-38 . Neither Duffy nor Bierman (US Pat. No. 2,535,998) discloses or suggests a device or method where the rod fluid channel is generally straight and/or wherein the rod is readily visible to an operator and/or easily reset. Thus, even if one were to combine the references, all of the claim requirements would not be present. Accordingly, the Section 103 rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

This Amendment is a submission pursuant to the requirements of filing a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. 1.114. Prosecution of the merits of this application was closed on May 3, 2007. A three-month extension of time is requested under 37 CFR §1.136(a) with the accompanying small entity fee as set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(a), and submit herewith \$525.00 extension fee due. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment with respect to this amendment to deposit account number 19-3140.

Respectfully submitted,

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